

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 18, 2008 in connection with this application.

The Drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.84 concerning the quality of Figures 9-12 for reproduction in black and white in the printed patent. Applicant herewith submits corrected drawing sheets which are believed to overcome the objection.

The Examiner has objected to the Specification in three places on pages 15 and 20. Although the Examiner has suggested that the reference on page 15, paragraph 1 to the “plate-like frame element 125” should be changed to “plate-like frame element 104”, Applicant believes that the reference to 125 is accurate although the reference in the subsequent line to “plate-like frame elements 101 and 105” should be changed to “plate-like frame elements 104 and 105”; this change has been made in paragraph 1 on page 15.

Applicant has also made the two additional corrections on page 20 by changing “constructedon” to “constructed on” and changing the later reference to the opening cover from “123” to “120”.

Applicant has also amended page 16, paragraph 2, to reference the “upper and lower sides” of the inserted flat cable instead of merely referencing “each” side in order to provide more specific reference for the same language that appears in claim 9. Additionally, since that language lacked antecedent basis in claim 9, the claim was amended to refer to “an upper and a lower side” instead of referencing “the upper and lower side”.

Applicant has also amended claim 2 by changing the reference to “connecting point” which does not have antecedent basis in claim 1 to “connection area” which is more accurate and is already referenced in claim 1.

The Examiner also pointed out that the reference to “the side” in claim 10 was also lacking antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 10 so that the reference to “at the side of insertion opening” now reads “along a side of the insertion opening”. There is antecedent basis for reference to the insertion opening.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 15 and 18 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Liegl et al. Applicant has amended claim 1 to require “an external housing which even in an unassembled condition of the connector and flat cable arrangement has an insertion

opening which is adapted for the insertion of the end of a flat cable arrangement in order to effect electrical connection at a connection area of the insertion opening". Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at least at page 2, lines 29-32; page 5, lines 1-2; page 9, lines 29-31; page 10, lines 25-28; page 12, lines 1-14; page 17, lines 9-22; page 20, lines 13-16 and also in the Figures. Applicant has also removed the reference numbers from claim 1 as well as from the rest of the claims.

Liegl does not describe a housing which, even though there is no flat cable arrangement assembled has an insertion opening, which is adapted for the insertion of the end of a flat cable arrangement in order to effect electrical connection at a connection area of the insertion opening. As shown in Figure 5 and described in paragraph 20, the Liegl reference discloses a printed circuit board being placed on the gel filled first half shell and, subsequently, the second half shell is placed onto the first half shell.

The Dean reference (3,333,229) shows a flat cable arrangement 14 which is in contact with the sealing element 18 prior to insertion of the cable arrangement into the through hole 22 of the connector housing 10.

Similarly, the Schwant reference (6,196,863) does not describe a housing which, even though there is no flat cable arrangement assembled, has an insertion opening which is adapted for the insertion of the end of a flat cable arrangement in order to effect electrical connection at a connection area of the insertion opening as required by amended claim 1. Further, the cable disclosed in the Schwant reference is not inserted with an end thereof but rather loaded through the housing as addressed in that patent at column 4, lines 49-58.

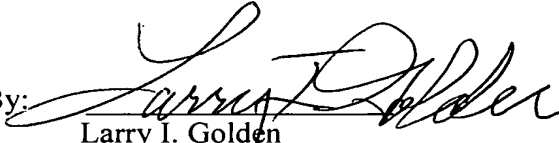
Applicant has canceled claim 18 and amended claim 20 to become dependent upon claim 2.

For the foregoing reasons, amended claim 1, along with its dependent claims 2-17 and 20, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references cited and are believed allowable.

Applicant believes all matters have been addressed and the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or believe that prosecution may be advanced, she is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number provided.

It is believed that no additional fee is required in connection with this Amendment, but the USPTO is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in this matter to Deposit Account 50-1873.

Respectfully submitted,
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